

GOD'S BUMPER STICKERS

WHAT MIGHT THEY SAY?



MY KIDS ARE BLESSED (MATTHEW 5:1-12)

God's Bumper Stickers sermon series

By Pastor David Hillis, 08.25.19

BIG IDEA: *God blesses us by considering us perfect and helping work out the imperfections. We bless others by helping them see what God sees in them.*

- **Blessings** ([2 Corinthians 9:8 NIV](#), [Ecclesiastes 7:2-4](#), [Ephesians 1:3-4](#))
 - When have you felt *truly blessed*?
 - When you finally got what you felt you deserved.
 - When you felt you got what you did not deserve.
 - When some really good stuff happened to you.
 - When in the midst of some bad things, but you saw a bigger perspective.
 - Have we lost our touch with the power of blessings?
 - When was the last time someone prayed or spoke a thoughtful blessing over your life.
 - We seldom speak words of blessing over others; encouraging them for who they are and not what they do.
 - Such blessings remind us of who we are apart from our successes or failures.
 - They can take the power away from the self-critical words we think and say about ourselves.
 - When are we blessed?
 - When we take our achievements out of the equation.
 - We are blessed through mourning, hard times and persecution.
 - When we learn meekness and become more Christlike.
 - When we become more merciful people.

- When we grow to be more pure in heart rather than deceitful.
- We are blessed when we see conflict as an opportunity to grow.

NEXT STEP: How is God blessing you in this season in your life? Can you see the less obvious ways? Who in your life today does God most want you to speak a blessing over? Will you?

FOR MY PERSONAL TIME WITH GOD THIS WEEK:

1. This week in part 2 of *God's Bumper Stickers*, we talked about how we are blessed by God — sometimes in obvious ways, other times in less obvious ways! Spend some time re-reading and meditating on [Matthew 5:1-12](#) this week. Consider each of these Beatitudes, and how God has used each one at least once in your life in the past. Can you see how God blessed you through any of those tough circumstances?
2. As you further study each of these, try writing for yourself some "anti-beatitudes." How would you word the *opposites* of each of these beatitudes? Try writing out an idea for each one and see how it helps you better grasp what Jesus was saying. Perhaps by starting each one with the phrase, "Not blessed are those who ..."
3. What negative voices are the loudest and most persistent in your life? Which ones do you struggle and find the hardest to deal with? What do they say about you? Take the time to clearly define some of them. In what ways do you find yourself agreeing with them? Have anyone's words ever blessed you by counteracting any of them?
4. In [Matthew 19:13-15](#), Jesus laid His hands on children and said a blessing over them. It was a physical act that others around Him considered a waste of time. Was it a waste? If not, why not? What keeps you from taking the time to speak thoughtful words of blessing over others around you? Can you see how your words can help them counteract the messages they believe about themselves and help them see themselves the way God sees them?
5. Next week, we will look at how God breaks His kids at times, and why. What Scriptures can you find that speak to this? What do they reveal to you?

ONLINE RESOURCES:

- **Want to know more about Care Portal?** Information about the ministry on [our website](#), or on the [Care Portal website](#).
- **Pastor Dave mentioned a book which was part of the inspiration behind this new series.** It is Henri Nouwen's book [Life of the Beloved](#), available on Amazon in paper, digital and audio formats.